

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method
2 comprising:
3 evaluating a description of audiovisual content ;
4 determining whether the description is an abstraction; and
5 if the description is an abstraction,
6 determining a level of abstraction, and
7 storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of
8 audiovisual content.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the description of audiovisual content is a
2 semantic description.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the
2 level of abstraction to determine a usage mode of the description of audiovisual
3 content.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the usage mode is any one of a descriptive
2 mode or an accessing mode.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the
2 level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is
3 a media abstraction.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the
2 level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is
3 a lambda abstraction.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the indicator of the level of abstraction
2 includes a positive integer to store a number associated with the level of
3 abstraction.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the indicator further includes a term to
2 point to one of a plurality of entries in a classification scheme, the one of the
3 plurality of entries being defined by the abstraction.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the description of the audiovisual content is
2 a description scheme.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising searching a database of
2 descriptions using a level of abstraction specified by a user.

1 11. A system for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the system
2 comprising:
3 means for evaluating a description of audiovisual content ;
4 means for determining whether the description is an abstraction;
5 means for determining a level of abstraction if the description is an
6 abstraction; and

means for storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the
description of audiovisual content upon determining the level of abstraction.

12. A system comprising:
a description processor to determine that a description of audiovisual
content is an abstraction and to calculate an abstraction level for the description;
and
a data depository to store the description with an indicator of the
abstraction level.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the description of audiovisual content is a
semantic description.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level
defines a usage mode of the description.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the usage mode is any one of a descriptive
mode or an accessing mode.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level
indicates whether the description of audiovisual content is a media abstraction.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level
indicates whether the description of audiovisual content is a lambda abstraction.

1 18. The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the level of abstraction
2 includes a positive integer to store a number associated with the level of
3 abstraction.

1 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the indicator further includes a term to
2 point to one of a plurality of entries in a classification scheme, the one of the
3 plurality of entries being defined by the abstraction.

1 20. The system of claim 12 wherein the description of the audiovisual content
2 is a description scheme.

1 21. The system of claim 12 further comprising a search module to search the
2 data repository using a level of abstraction specified by a user.

1 22. A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when
2 executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:
3 evaluating a description of audiovisual content ;
4 determining whether the description is an abstraction; and
5 if the description is an abstraction,
6 determining a level of abstraction, and
7 storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of
8 audiovisual content.